

JOURNEY SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 9

January 26, 2007

*Journey School * 23431 Knollwood * Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 * (949) 448-7232 *
www.journeyschool.net*

Dear Parents,

I didn't grow up wishing to be a school administrator. Matter of fact, I don't think any child adds this job to their wish list of careers. Yet the job has many perks to it. Besides picking up trash, occasionally cleaning the toilets and washing bird droppings off the lunch tables, I receive more than my fair share of hugs, receive many hellos and am regularly offered fresh popcorn from the microwave. If that is not enough to excite one, then I can begin to tell stories of true joy and laughter in the classroom, as well as see the glimmer in a student's eye when they receive back their Algebra I quiz with a score of 101%!

Unfortunately, I don't spend all my time in the classroom teaching and observing the daily growth the students make as they journey from childhood to young adulthood. Many hours are spent responding to emails, returning telephone calls and analyzing data from finance sheets and standardized test scores. Over the last week and from now into early May, I will have the pleasure of introducing families to the Journeys education model that Rudolf Steiner created. With open enrollment upon us, I will oversee five information evenings, at least three walks through the grades and dozens of individual meetings. As you are aware, folks who look for this type of education are often unique, inquisitive, don't accept the status quo and desire answers that make sense. Individual time with a school representative is paramount to them. They wish for their child to be seen as a unique person with amazing capacities to be inwardly ignited by just the right set of teachers.

I attend faculty meetings, class meetings, Council meetings, finance meetings, teacher development and search committee meetings, mentoring meetings, RSP meetings, occasional staff meetings (when I realize that Shoon and Julie really need to speak to me) and long range planning meetings. What I strive for is to continue to understand the term "meeting", and to understand that in these meetings the true nature of each one of us is present and has something special to offer. I grimace when these meetings add to my "to do" list, and selfishly hope that it will be a meeting of no action, but with that intent, Journey would not be the school it has become. I try as I might to be the communicator of information from committee to community, and realize after being in this type of position for nine years that improvements are always needed and necessary.

My shadow side loves to complain, but my light side and a certain kindergarten teacher refuse to let that attitude grip me. When I was at the Sacramento Waldorf School, I would laugh and say, "At the Tim Connolly Waldorf School..." The truth of it, though, is as difficult it is to keep us all on the same page, it could never be done well by just one individual making the decisions. Our school is great because of what we bring to it. Our passions, our love, our desires and our shadows all make up this variety of community school. Our school is unique because we are unique.

While being a school administrator may cause me to lose a few hairs, I am also fortunate to be asked to walk a little one to his "Y" program, buy shakes for a hard working algebra class, listen to the 7th grade play their recorders or observe the quiet beauty of kindergarten children eating their morning snack. Indeed, the task is one that I have been fortunate to have, and maybe, just maybe, I might inspire a child to want to add school administrator to that list of "what I wish to be when I grow up."

My best to you....Tim Connolly, Administrator

Re-enrollment Letters Due by January 31, 2007

It is important that your re-enrollment forms be returned by January 31, 2007 at the absolute latest to insure placement for your children for 2007-2008 school year. Open enrollment begins on February 1, 2007 and we wish to be clear about openings in any class. Please contact the office with questions if you did not receive the form!

Thanks.

Council to Discuss Budget for 2007-08

The Council will be holding a meeting on January 29th at the home of Council member Maysoun Asssaf at 7:00 PM. The meeting has been set to discuss the budget for the upcoming school year. The current budget is balanced at the moment and based on projections will remain so. As the Council looks to next year, they will consider the financial needs for the upcoming 8th grade year, the incoming 1st grade class, reinstating our foreign language program and other necessary salary improvements. In addition, general budget increases for expenses will be considered. It is predicted that enrollment will grow by 25-30 students next year that follows suit to the past two school years. The Council will work with the Faculty to create priorities on these matters, and will meet with the Faculty to conduct work on this topic as well as mission statement work for the school.

Journey School to relocate to the former site of Foxborough School!

At the January 8th meeting of the Capistrano Unified School District, the Board of Trustees voted to combine the Wood Canyon and Foxborough elementary schools, and approving the staff recommendation to move our school to the Foxborough site just east of us. It is expected that we will have 15 portable units at the site to call our own. The remaining buildings will likely house other CUSD business that has not been announced as yet. The new facility has three distinct playgrounds, a lovely lunch area, is adjacent to the bike trail and will allow room for the school to grow.

The Council has given permission to assemble a "relocation team" to begin reviewing the site and to make recommendations for the new classroom locations and begin to plan steps for the move. The group has been asked to report back to the Council by March 8.

Faculty and Administrator Search

The Faculty and the Council announce that interviews for the 2007-08 1st grade teacher and a new kindergarten teacher to replace departing Morning Glory teacher, Mrs. Connolly are now in earnest. The faculty have begun interviewing candidates for these positions, and will continue to do so through February. The Council has initiated a search committee for the school's new Administrator and has agreed to assemble a committee created of two Faculty, two Parent Cabinet and two Council members to help screen and identify candidates. The committee will recommend candidates to the Council and Faculty to interview, and holds no final decision making itself. It is advisory only.

JOURNEY SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO

CREATIVE DISCIPLINE:
FIVE SECRETS
TO HAPPY PARENTING

A lively and helpful conversation
with Patti Connolly, Kindergarten teacher

FEBRUARY 12
MONDAY

7:00-8:30 pm

In our Eurythmy room on the
Wood Canyon campus
DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE
\$5 per child ~ preregistration required

COME LEARN MORE AT OUR COMMUNITY FORUMS!

I hope you didn't miss the Community Forum on "**Optimal Health for Children: Learning with Ease**" given by Chuck Meece, D.C. this past Wednesday evening. But, don't worry if you were not able to make that one because we have another just next week for you...

On **February 2nd and 3rd** Shea Darian, author of *Seven Times the Sun*, presents "**Creating Family as a Sanctuary For Our Children and Youth**". On Friday, February 2nd, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Shea will speak on "The Sanctuary of Family Life". Then on Saturday, February 3, 9:00 am-12:30 pm, Shea will share story, poetry, song and simple rituals with the participants in the workshop entitled "The Sanctuaries of Daily Life: Creating Home as a Haven for the Soul". **Pre-registration is essential for this special parenting conference.** Fees are as follows: Keynote Talk & Workshop: \$35, Keynote & Workshop for 2nd parenting partner: \$20, Keynote Talk only: \$10, Workshop only: \$30. Please call the office to pre-register.

Then just ten days later on February 12, Monday, Patti Connolly, our Morning Glory Kindergarten teacher, will share her special secrets to parenting so that you can live a less stressful and much happier life as a parent. This fun and lively forum is entitled "**Creative Discipline: Five Secrets to Happy Parenting**" will be from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

Don't miss our last winter Community Forum about our school's unique curriculum on Wednesday, **February 28**. Richard Martin, our 5th grade main lesson teacher will present, "**How Math Is Taught at Journey School**". He will be sharing the movement based, advanced Waldorf math curriculum along with an outline of the California math curriculum through the grades, comparing and contrasting the two in light of current research-based thinking about mathematics teaching. He will then describe the ways in which our school's program integrates the best of both worlds and will add a sprinkling of hands-on exercises for the participants to experience this unique program.

All of the above forums will be held in the Alternative Learning Center on the Wood Canyon campus. The February 2-3 Parenting Conference is the only forum that has fees. All the other Community Forums are **free** and donations are gratefully accepted. Please invite friends and family to join us for these wonderful community events!

Childcare will be available for children over 3 years old for all evening events only for a \$5 per child fee. **Pre-registration for childcare is required by calling the office.**

For the Community Forum Committee,
Patti Connolly

HOUSING NEED FOR SHEA DARIAN

Shea Darian, the "Family Matters Conference" speaker, would rather stay in a family's home than in a hotel room. I am looking for a family that either lives within walking distance of the school or is planning on coming to the conference who would be interested in sharing their spare bedroom with Shea on Friday, February 2nd only. I would be able to pick her up and take her to your home if needed. She is a very dear individual who I appreciated sharing my larger home in Sacramento with a few years ago when she spoke there!

Please call Patti Connolly ASAP at 970-401-0189 or email at connollypatti@cox.net if you are interested.

Thanks!
Patti Connolly

FAMILY MATTERS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

NAME/S _____

ADDRESS (include zip) _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

CONFERENCE FEES

Keynote Talk and Workshop \$35

Keynote Talk and Workshop
for 2nd parenting partner discount \$20
(spouse, partner or grandparent)

Keynote Talk only \$10

Workshop only \$30

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Clip and send registration form and write check to:

Journey School

23431 Knollwood

Aliso Viejo, Ca. 92656

Phone: 949.448.7232

Website: www.journeyschool.net

ADOLESCENCE PARENT STUDY GROUP BEGINNING FEBRUARY 6

Adolescence brings on the birth of new emotions and developing analytical thinking and can be a time of unrest in a family as teens and their parents form a different relationship together. Come study the book Between Form and Freedom by Betty Staley, a former Waldorf high school teacher and now adult educator, with like-minded parents who wish to deepen their understanding of their adolescents or almost adolescents and journey through this intense period of growth with respect and love. The study group will be facilitated by Patti Connolly. It will last at least six weeks long and will meet on Tuesdays at the school from 7 to 8 pm. We will read a chapter or two before each meeting and then discuss the chapters together. The first meeting will be a time for us to share our perceptions of adolescence through our own experience of it. The second meeting will be a field trip to the Waldorf School of Orange County to listen to a talk on adolescence. We will then begin our book study. The book will be available at Journey Treasures and will cost between \$10 and \$20 depending on whether used or new. Please contact Ann McKee at annmckee5@yahoo.com or 551-4815 or Patti Connolly at connollypatti@cox.net or 970-401-0189 if you wish to join.

MORNING GLORY NEWS~JANUARY 26, 2007

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION IN MORNING GLORY

Here's a review of our Valentine's Day card exchange. Soon the children will be making their heart "mailboxes" for our Valentine's Day "post office". The children will make deliveries of their Valentine's cards into these "mailboxes" on February 14th.

Please read the following guidelines for making Valentine cards:

1. Your child does not need to bring anything for Valentine's Day. This is completely voluntary.
2. If you decide for your child to make cards, please have them be **handmade** and **very simple**. No store-bought cards, thanks.
3. If you decide for your child to make cards, **please have one for each child in the class**. We have 20 children.
4. It helps the postmaster immensely if the cards are not addressed to specific children. Only your child's name is needed with a "from ____" or "love ____".
5. Please no sweet treats, chocolate or candy. We will be making special treats for that day!

VALENTINE TEA FOR YOU

On that same day we have invited all of you to come to a small celebration with sweet treats, fruit and tea at 11 am. **Please RSVP by February 9th by email or by letting me know at school so that we know how many to plan for.** Thanks everyone!

WINTER WEATHER ATTIRE

Thanks also for keeping your child in layered clothing even though it may look like it will be sunny and warm. We have still found the mornings at Journey to be chilly so wearing jackets, hats, scarves and gloves in the mornings is very helpful for your child's healthy growth. The children shed the layers as the sun warms up the yard come late morning.

PARENT EVENING ON FEBRUARY 12, MONDAY

We will have our rescheduled Parent Evening on the 12th of February beginning at 6pm (new time as well!) to discuss a load of items! We will meet in the Wood Canyon multipurpose room. As always there will be yummy treats and hot coffee for you to enjoy as we talk over the items and then the "Creative Discipline" talk will begin at 7pm. Let me know if you are not able to make it. Thanks!
Childcare is available for children 3 years and older. Please sign up ahead of time in the office.

With gratitude, Patti

*The students and faculty of Journey School
invite you and your friends and family
to our*

First Annual INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

*on the evening of March 30th
at our school*

The Festival will be the culmination of each grade class' study of a country and will begin with artistic presentations by grades 1-7 in the Wood Canyon performance hall. The students will then open the outdoor "Global Restaurant" sharing nine unique dishes from their countries.

*ADMISSION INCLUDES~
Viewing our Artistic Presentations
and
Entrance to our Global Restaurant*

*ADMISSION FEES~
FULL PASSPORT (sampling of all 9 dishes and a beverage)
\$8 pre-purchased (beginning Feb. 28)
\$10 at the door
MINI PASSPORT (sampling of 4 dishes and a beverage)
\$3 pre-purchased (beginning Feb. 28)
\$5 at the door*

Your child's main lesson teacher will be sharing more information with you about how you can help with the food preparation. If you would like to be a part of the overall coordination of the event or have any other questions, please contact Coco Cuddyer at 713-6003 or cuddyer@cox.net.

Class Plays.....2007

The curriculum of the school calls for each class from 2nd through 7th grade to put on a play that enlivens what has been taught in the classroom and that encourages the students' social growth. Roles are chosen for each student based on what the teacher feels would be most appropriate for them. Costumes are created, as well as props, often with the children.

It is a time for the children to show their growth, maturity and their abilities in yet another way. These plays are not to be missed and accordingly, the schedule for plays this year is as follows:

April 5.....6th grade
May 24.....3rd grade
May 31.....5th grade
June 1.....4th grade
June 7.....2nd grade
June 14.....7th grade

Ms. Clark assures me that the 1st grade will perform a play this year, yet as with last year's class, it will be a play of lesser demand to meet the needs of the 1st grade child.

The date will be announced in the spring.

Journey Treasures

Sale on Evi Dolls and select wooden toys 50% off!

- Check out our inventory list online at www.journeyschool.net with convenient links to major catalogs. Just be sure to e-mail *Journey Treasures* with your order.

Store hours:

Tuesday and Friday
Wednesday

11:00a.m. – 3:00p.m.
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Recycling Wednesdays

Recycling is good for the environment. Bring in your recyclable plastic and aluminum cans and help keep California clean. It's a good thing. The Parent Fundraising Committee will oversee the transport of bottles and cans to the recycling center and collect the deposits for the school's general fund.

Who: The Journey School kids and parents.
What: Bring recyclable plastic and aluminum bottles and cans to school.
When: Every Wednesday morning
Where: The drop off area

Call Betsy Abrams to help with volunteering and with any questions at 949-215-0383



Important Dates

January 29

Council Meeting (at Maysoun Assaf's house)
7:00 p.m.

January 30

1st grade field trip "Juice it Up"
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

January 31

Re-enrollment forms due

February 1

Open enrollment begins

February 2

Family Matter Parenting Conference
7:00 p.m.

February 3

Family Matters Conference
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

February 4 - February 6

6th grade field trip O'Neill Park

February 6

Information Meeting for Perspective Parents
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

February 7

5th Grade "Girl Power"
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

February 8

Council Meeting
7:00 p.m.

February 12

Morning Glory Parent Evening
6 - 7p.m.
"Creative Discipline" Community Forum
7 - 8:30 p.m.

February 13

Information Meeting for Perspective Parents
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

February 14

Journey School Founders Day

February 15

1st grade field trip Meixner Bakery
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

February 16

Full day of school

February 19 - 23

President's Day Week School Holiday
No School